

**Stop Kiss** by Diana Son



Meredith Ellis and Alice Wiley

**Mercer Theatre 2007-08 Season**

Up Next!

AN EVENING OF ORIGINAL ONE ACTS

An Exciting Evening of

MERCER UNIVERSITY STUDENT

Written Works!

**The Disciples** by Andrew Silver



Phillip Banze, Charles Thomas, Chad Sliger, Shannon Johnson.

MERCER UNIVERSITY THEATRE  
PRESENTS

directed by  
SCOT MANN

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**The Backdoor Theatre**

March 11-15 & 17-19 @ 7:00PM

March 16 @ 2:00PM

Tickets \$5.00

For reservations, call 478.301.5470

(Box office transaction fees may apply)

TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO CURTAIN

# RASHOMON

by  
**Fay and Michael Kanin**

Based on the film adaptation by  
Akira Kurosawa

**Directed by Scot J. Mann**

Scenic Design..... Marian Zielinski  
Lighting Design..... Marian Zielinski  
Costume Design..... Shelley Kuhen  
Sound Design..... Scot J. Mann\*  
Fight Director..... Scot J. Mann\*

\*Member, Actors Equity Association

## CAST

Priest..... Ian Van Sice  
Woodcutter..... Thad Money  
Wigmaker..... Han Htet  
Deputy..... Stephen Wilshire  
Tajomaru..... Victor Bula  
Husband..... Phillip Banze  
Wife..... Alice Wiley  
Mother..... Ashley Eckersley  
Medium..... Christina Thorington

## MERCER THEATRE PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director..... Zach Broome  
Stage Manager..... Jessica Thomas  
Scenic Artist..... Marian Zielinski  
Set Crew..... Phillip Banze, Matt Bird, Victor Bula,  
Marcella Murray, Laura Nelms,  
Lighting Crew..... Kellen Abrams, Sam Bazemore,  
Tommy Love, Meredith Ellis, Jessi Ford  
Props..... Scot Mann, Phillip Banze,  
Laura Nelms, Hiromi Onabe, Victor Bula  
Costume Crew..... Shelley Kuhen, Marian McHugh, Evelyn  
Funderburk, Lauren Parris, Rebecca Strally, Sarah Vial

Makeup Design..... Kaylie Damen  
Language Consultant..... Hiromi Onabe  
Sound Operator..... Katie Jackson  
Running Crew..... Tory Johnson, Hiromi Onabe  
House Manager..... Shannon Johnson  
Graphic Design..... Darlene Murphy

TIME: ONE THOUSAND YEARS AGO  
PLACE: RASHOMON GATE, JAPAN

Three men seek shelter from a terrible storm where they discover that  
the mysterious, violent death of a stranger touches them all.

## WHO'S WHO

**Phillip Banze** (Husband) is from Ringgold, Georgia, and is a junior Sociology major and Theatre minor at Mercer University. This is Phil's seventh production in the Backdoor Theatre, formerly performing roles as Rick Rickenbacker in Andrew Silver's *Disciples*, Dromio of Syracuse in *Comedy of Errors*, and Clyde in *Hot N' Throbbing*. He is the Vice President of the Mercer Players and a project leader in the Scene Shop, working on sets for over ten productions since he came to Mercer in 2005. Phillip would like to thank his fellow cast and crew members for their enlightening support and acerbic wit, without which the process would be far less entertaining and rewarding. Fish swim...birds fly.

**Zachary Broome** (Technical Director), like Director Scot Mann, has returned to his alma mater to work as part of the theatre department. He is thrilled to be a part of a program that is moving and growing in new, exciting directions. Some of Zach's previous work includes scenic design for the Mercer Player's production of *Stop Kiss* and puppetry design and construction for *Jabberwocky!*.

**Victor Bula** (Tajomaru) is a sophomore Psychology major at Mercer University. He has worked as a Mercer Player in several productions since his freshman year. He would like to thank all of the people who have worked hard to bring this production to life.

**Ashley Eckersley** (Mother) is a sophomore at Mercer University and this is her first Mercer production. However, she was involved in many productions in high school. Ashley is on the Pre-Med track at Mercer, and is considering a major in Theatre. Thanks for everything...and this is what I remember...

**Han Htet** (Wigmaker) is a sophomore at Mercer University and is involved in his first Mercer production. Han is a resident of Macon but was born in the country of Burma. He is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Psychology while on the pre-medicine track. Han would like to thank the cast and crew for their encouragement and his family for their unyielding support and devotion.

**Katie Jackson** (Assistant Stage Manager) is a freshman at Mercer University and is assisting in her second Mercer production. She was also Assistant Stage Manager for *The Disciples*. Katie hails from the college town of Clemson, South Carolina, but prefers paying out-of-state tuition and is currently without a major. She wants to thank the cast for being made of awesome.

**Tory Johnson** (Running Crew) is a first-year student at Mercer and excited to be back in the theatre. She has been a part of five high school theatre productions at Jones County High School, three of which she served as stage manager. At Theatre Macon this past summer, she was a dresser for *Les Miserables*, and at Macon Little Theatre, she operated the light board for *Beauty and the Beast*. This is her second show at Mercer, having first stage managed last semester's production of *Stop Kiss*. Thank you to everyone involved with this show for expanding my love for theatre.

**Shelley Kuhlen** (Costume Designer) is in her twelfth year at Mercer University Theatre as Costume Director. You last saw her work on stage in the Backdoor Theatre for *The Disciples* and *Stop Kiss*. She also designs for Mercer Opera and Theatre Macon. Her most recent productions were *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, which was performed at the Grand Opera House and *Tom Jones* at Theatre Macon.

**Scot Mann** (Director, Sound Design, Fight Director) is an Assistant Professor and Theatre Director at Mercer. In 2006, he received a Meritorious Achievement Award for his direction of *Scapin*, by the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival. Scot is an internationally recognized and award winning Certified Fight Director through the Society of American Fight Directors and Certified Teacher through the British Academy of Stage and Screen Combat. He has choreographed, performed and coached theatrical violence with major regional theatres and conservatories across the U.S., England, and Germany. Scot is a proud alumnus of the MFA/PAT program at The Alabama Shakespeare Festival and holds a BA in Theatre from Mercer University. As an actor, Scot has appeared with numerous theatre and opera companies, as motion capture talent for interactive DVD games, and a stunt player and Sword Master for films in the U.S. and India. Scot is a proud member of Actor's Equity and The Screen Actors Guild.

**Thad Money** (Woodcutter) is a junior Political Science major and English minor at Mercer University. This is Thad's second Mercer Players production; he recently played Verne Hudgins in *The Disciples*. Thad is from Monroe, GA and wishes to thank all those who continue to support him in his endeavors.

**Hiroimi Onabe** (Props, Running Crew) is an exchange student at Mercer University from Japan, and this is her first time getting involved in a Mercer production. Hiroimi is from the southern part of Japan, Fukuoka City, and is studying at Mercer for a year. She wants to thank the cast and crew for making a great show and having her involved in it.

**Jessica Thomas** (Stage Manager) is a freshman at Mercer University and is involved in her third Mercer production, most recently as the stage manager for *The Disciples*. Jessica comes from a small town just outside of Cincinnati, Ohio and is a theater major. Jessica wants to thank the cast for working so hard and making an experience to remember.

**Christina Thorington** (Medium) is a sophomore majoring in Communication and Theatre from Columbus, GA. *Rashomon* is her third production at Mercer University. She previously appeared as Mrs. Winsley in *Stop Kiss* and Angelo in *Comedy of Errors*. Recently, she was part of the ensemble for Macon Little Theatre's *Beauty and the Beast*. Christina would like to thank her fellow cast and crew members for all the fun and memories! You allow me to do what I love!!

**Ian Van Sice** (Priest) is an English, Theatre, and Women's and Gender Studies major. This is his fourth show at Mercer; you may remember him from his roles last semester as Peter in *Stop Kiss* and Professor Jim Wallace in *Disciples*. He would like to thank the cast and crew for always reminding him why we spend so much time on these shows and making him realize he loves it more and more each time.

**Alice Wiley** (Wife) is a junior Theatre major from Hamilton, GA. She recently appeared as Callie in *Stop Kiss*, and *Rashomon* is her sixth production at Mercer. She would like to thank her fellow cast members and crew, and especially Victor, Phil, and Ashley for being such fabulous scene partners and making this experience so much fun.

**Stephen Wilshire** (Deputy) is a sophomore with an undeclared major. Stephen appeared last year in Mercer University's production of *Comedy of Errors* as the Duke. Stephen would like to thank his fellow cast and crew members for all of their hard work and support, and for making every Mercer production such a great experience!

**Marian Zielinski** (Set and Lighting Designer) is completing her 26<sup>th</sup> season designing for Mercer University Theatre. Some of the highlights of her tenure include set designs for *The Night of the Iguana*, *Beyond Therapy*, and *Under Milk Wood*. In recent years, she has also directed for Mercer Theatre including *Waiting for Godot*, *The Illusion*, *How I learned to Drive*, *The Good Doctor* (which toured to Japan), and most recently, *The Three Sisters*. She has designed professionally off-off Broadway, and for Music Theatre Louisville, The Shawnee Theatre, and the Illinois Shakespeare Festival. Marian is an avid fiber artist and painter. She will be opening her first individual show in the gallery at Theatre Macon April 11<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> and would like to invite all of you to see that exhibit which coincides with Theatre Macon's production of *The Full Monty*. Marian also enjoys traveling with her husband, Frank Macke, swimming, photography, and gardening.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I am particularly excited about our production of *Rashomon*. Fay and Michael Kanin's adaptation is a marvelous opportunity for our program to deepen our students' knowledge of ancient Japanese culture, to examine themselves as creative artists both on and off stage, and to serve the broader community of our college and university. Customarily, this space in the program is reserved for the director to expound on their concept and attempt to explain a few things before the lights dim. I feel *Rashomon* unfolds without the need for such artistic musings, so I choose to take a moment to shine light on a group of truly deserving artists.

I'd like to take an opportunity to thank our dedicated and talented students. They spend hours in rehearsal (about 80-90 per show) and many hours outside of rehearsal engaged in research, line memorization, set and costume construction, and, of course, their demanding curricular responsibilities. I admire each of you, and I promise your dedication will pay off after graduation!

After many years free-lancing professionally, I can assure you we are fortunate to have some of the finest artists in the region. Marian Zielinski is a genius, and I think as you view her set design and painting before you (brilliantly illuminated with her own lighting design) you'll agree with me. Shelly Kuhen never ceases to astound me with her creativity, skill, and ability to work with grace and consistency under extreme time constraints. Either of these talented women could be working with major regional or Broadway theatres with the skills they possess. We are most fortunate that they are happy here with us! Our Technical Director, the indispensable Zach Broome, is a gift to a program that is as challenged on physical resources as ours. He has the skills, creativity, and versatility to "make it work", and always on time. You are a most welcome addition this year!

I thank you all!

Scot J. Mann  
Assistant Professor/Theatre Director, Mercer University  
Fight Director, Society of American Fight Directors  
Certified Teacher, British Academy of Stage and Screen Combat.